

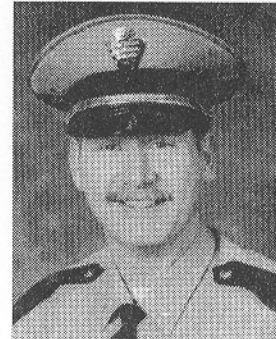
STATE OF MONTANA  
**DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE**  
MONTANA HIGHWAY PATROL DIVISION

Mike McGrath  
Attorney General



2550 Prospect  
PO Box 201419  
Helena, MT 59620-1419

Honorable Mike McGrath  
Attorney General  
Justice Building  
215 N. Sanders  
Helena, Montana 59620



Re: 2002 Annual Report

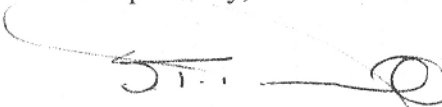
Dear Attorney General:

I respectfully submit the Annual Report for the Montana Highway Patrol for calendar year 2002. This report is in compliance with Montana statute and contains a tremendous amount of critical information concerning traffic crashes throughout the State of Montana. We hope it will be used to educate our citizens as to issues and concerns regarding highway traffic safety in Montana.

Tragically, Montana's 2002 traffic death count was the higher than in previous years with 269 victims. Many of the crashes had common contributing factors, such as inattentive driving, failure to obey traffic regulations, and or driver impairment. Regulation enforcement and compliance correlate to crash reduction. One hundred ninety-two fatal victims failed to use or improperly used protective restraint systems. The severity of the injury is increased by the fact that many of the victims were not properly restrained. Statistics and history demonstrate that an individual's chance of surviving a crash increase by 50% if properly restrained. It is clear that lives could be saved and injury severity reduced if individuals would utilize proper protective restraints.

The men and women of the Montana Highway Patrol will work diligently to improve the safety of our highway transportation system in the coming year. We will continue to meet new challenges and pledge our continued efforts to improve public safety in Montana. The Montana Highway Patrol, as all of Montanans, recognize and appreciate your efforts, your leadership and certainly your commitment to making Montana a better place for all of us to live and drive.

Respectfully,

  
Colonel Shawn T. Driscoll  
Chief Administrator

